

Idaho's Perspective on the
Blue Ribbon Commission Report

There may be merit in further exploring separating DOE spent nuclear fuel from commercial spent nuclear fuel.

New entity recommended by the Commission seems better suited to the commercial waste sector.

It may not make sense to send DOE spent nuclear fuel to interim storage as most of that waste is already in dry storage and some of it (Navy fuel) is ready for final disposal.

DOE spent nuclear fuel is at facilities capable of readying it for final disposal. This may not be the case with all commercial sites

States with DOE spent nuclear fuel already have an established relationship with DOE and to some extent each other. Could build on this to resolve the DOE spent fuel issue and meet commitments to those states. WIPP may be a good model.

DOE spent nuclear fuel not likely to be reprocessed so could go directly to disposal. Could also include high level waste.

DOE spent nuclear fuel is only a small amount of nation's waste and could be used as a prototype for disposal.

DOE could pursue disposal path for its spent nuclear fuel in parallel with new entity.

Funding mechanism recommended by Commission makes more sense for commercial sector than for DOE.

Idaho strongly supports the Commission's recommendation for nuclear research, development, and demonstration and feels that DOE already has in place labs and expertise to carry out such work.

Idaho would not want to see such work being duplicated or moved to a different facility simply to be an incentive for a state to take spent nuclear fuel.

The expertise is in place at DOE labs and they need to be provided with the means to continue carrying out their work.